

SYLLABUS
FALL 2020
COMMUNICATION 1: 03PT5100/01
Reformed Theological Seminary - Charlotte
Instructor: Dr. Jim Newheiser
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Course Description

This course addresses total communication for pastors with an emphasis on preaching philosophy and style, textual exposition, and sermon structure. Written and oral, verbal and non-verbal communications are included.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help students construct a biblical theology of preaching and a basic understanding of sermon construction.

Course Objectives

- To foster confidence in the preached Word to save, sanctify, and comfort God's elect.
- To emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit in Biblical preaching.
- To introduce students to the distinct nature of expository preaching.
- To introduce students to the basic construction of sermons.
- To explain the different elements of a sermon.
- To introduce students to basic pulpit etiquette and technique.

Course Requirements

Reading (to be discussed in class):

1. *Called to the Ministry*: Edmund Clowney
2. *What's a Young Preacher to Do? Toward Reconciling Rival Approaches to Reformed Preaching (article)*: Dennis Johnson, pages 1-21 (part I)
3. *Preaching and Preachers*: Martyn Lloyd-Jones
4. *Biblical Preaching*: Haddon Robinson
5. *Simplicity in Preaching*: J. C. Ryle
6. *Preaching with Purpose*: Jay Adams

The expectation is that students will read every word of these books to receive full reading credit. Students will be graded based on their self-reporting according to the following rubric:

	Percentage of the book read word-for-word
	Percentage of the book skimmed
	Read by due date (Yes or No)

The reading report is due on December 1st. If you have already read any of the assigned readings you may either read them again word for word or contact the professor for an alternative assignment. There will be a small penalty if the reading is not completed by the due dates. Not doing the reading will result in more significant penalties. Reports submitted late or students who must be reminded to submit their report will suffer an academic penalty.

Qualifications and Calling: Write a 4-page paper analyzing your qualifications for ministry and your call to the ministry. Include a brief plan for how you plan to work on at least one area of weakness. Due August 27

Sermon Preparation: Choose and sign up (online using google docs – see link on Canvas) for a passage from Ephesians (no two students may choose the same text) and work through the stages of sermon preparation. The final products will be a sermon manuscript and an outline that could be brought into the pulpit.

- Text selection from Ephesians (sign up through Canvas). Due August 27
- Study notes. Due September 17
- Purpose statement (one sentence). Due September 24
- Bare bones outline (introduction, main points and conclusion). Due October 1
- Full outline (3–4 pages — includes sub-points, transitions, illustrations and applications). Due November 12
- Sermon manuscript (minimum 3000 words). Due November 19

Sermon Analysis: Listen to or read sermons by four different preachers and fill out a sermon evaluation form in which you reflect upon the strengths and the weaknesses of each preacher. I would suggest that you consider including your present and/or past pastor, Spurgeon, Piper, L. Duncan, Lloyd-Jones and MacArthur. See class schedule for due dates

In-Class Speaking Assignment: Make ten to fifteen-minute presentation—either a short homily or sermon (which could be based upon your chosen text from Ephesians), or give your personal testimony (with reference to a favorite passage of Scripture). See class schedule for due dates

Study Notes Assignment: Expected to be 5 pages or more with a minimum of 3 pages, including word studies and notes from commentaries. Due September 17

Final Exam

Will be given on Canvas using the Lockdown Browser

Classroom Policies

1. All classroom policies at RTS Charlotte are expected to be followed.
2. Guidelines for papers (including reflections and exams) submitted in this course can be found as a separate document on Canvas. **Reading this document and following its instructions is essential for you to pass this course.**
3. Students are required to cite all sources consulted for a written assignment. Students who plagiarize or cheat in any other manner are guilty of academic misconduct and will be reported to the Dean of Students. This will result in disciplinary action up to and including failure of the course and academic dismissal.
4. Laptops are welcome in class for note taking only. Only word processing programs may be open during class; no browsers, email programs, social media feeds, or any other program is to be used. Please silence cell phones and do not text, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, or whatever else desperately beckons for your attention during class.

Please also adhere to the following RTS internet usage protocol:

RTS Charlotte Classroom Technology Usage

RTS Charlotte recognizes how essential it is for students to have reliable, campus-wide access to the internet. For that reason, we have made Wi-Fi available for our student body, not only in the library and student lounges, but also in the classrooms. We know that students need to use the internet to download class materials, access files on the Cloud, and locate other important information. However, we also recognize that internet access in the classroom provides opportunity for abuse and misuse. Some students have unfortunately used their internet access to engage in many activities that distract them from the classroom lectures (e.g., surfing the web, checking sports scores, playing games). Not only does such activity hamper a student's own seminary education, but it distracts other students who can easily view the screens of nearby students. In addition, donors and classroom guests (who often sit in the back) can see this inappropriate internet usage, which reflects poorly on RTS. Classroom etiquette includes leaving cell phones turned off, refraining from surfing the Internet or playing computer games or other distracting activities. In addition, students must respect standards set by individual professors regarding the use of technology during their class.

In order to address this issue, we must appeal to the integrity of the students as ones who are preparing for a lifetime of ministry to Christ and his church. We expect each student to take personal responsibility for proper classroom technology usage and to encourage others around them to do the same. All RTS-Charlotte students are accountable to the policies stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog and are therefore expected to use technology in the classroom only for appropriate class-related activities. Student conduct is under the supervision of the Dean of Students.

Student Instructions for Exams with LockDown Browser

1. Install the LockDown Browser application on the computer you intend to use for exams, prior to sitting for the exam, using this link: <https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=998253613>
 - This link is ONLY for RTS students and covers Mac and Windows applications.
 - Be sure that you are able to login to your Canvas account from the LockDown Browser before scheduling a time to take your exam.
 - The LockDown Browser application is already installed on the computers in the RTS Charlotte library. (Note that if you elect to use the library computers, your proctor must still be present throughout the duration of the exam.)
 - If you use internet filtering software (for example, Covenant Eyes) you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser. Some types of filtering software can block your computer's connection to Canvas. Also, please be sure to add an exception for our Canvas URL: <https://rts.instructure.com>
2. Make arrangements with a proctor to supervise the exam within the date timeframe set by the professor. The proctor cannot be a family member, current RTS student (current = taken a class within the past year but not yet graduated), or member of the library staff. Typical proctors are pastors or church staff members. The document "Proctor Expectations Letter.doc" has been provided on your Canvas homepage in order to facilitate communication with your proctor. For your convenience, there will be several on-campus proctor blocks where a proctor will be available to supervise your exam. Dates and times will be posted on Canvas and announced in the weekly Semper.
3. The proctor must observe student taking exam and ensure that there are no devices or resources available other than the computer being used for the exam.
4. Access the exam during the specified date window in the syllabus or for finals, Academic Calendar:
 - a. Start the LockDown Browser application using a wired or known reliable WIFI connection. We do not recommend using restaurant or coffee shop WIFI to take exams.
 - b. Have your student ID number available to input into the exam.
 - c. If you use internet filtering software, you may need to disable it before beginning an exam with LockDown Browser.
 - d. Login to your Canvas account using your Self-Service username and password. If you need to reset your Self-Service password, you may do so at <https://selfservice.rts.edu>.
 - e. Navigate to the exam. You will not be able to access the exam with a standard web browser. For additional details on using LockDown Browser, review this **Student Quick Start Guide (PDF)**.
 - f. Time clock will begin once you open the exam.
 - g. Exam must be completed in one sitting. You may not exit and return to exam later.
 - h. The exam will contain questions requiring the proctor contact information, an honor pledge, and certification that your proctor was present during the entire exam period.
5. Proctors may be contacted to verify information regarding exam administration.
6. In the rare case of a technical issue (for example, if internet service goes out during exam), the proctor should contact the course TA. While the TA's may not be immediately available, the date and time of the email will document when the issue was reported. Please have your TA's contact information available for your proctor before opening the exam. Once you open the exam using the LockDown Browser, you will not be able to access other programs on your computers.

Class Participation

- It is required that students be present for all class sessions. If a student is “providentially hindered” from attending class, if possible, please notify the instructor. It is expected that students will keep current in their reading and assignments on time. Failure to comply with these standards will result in grade reduction, unless other arrangements have been made.

Grading

- Assigned Reading 10%
- Study Notes 5%
- Purpose Statement and Bare Bones Outline 10%
- Sermon Manuscript and Outline 20%
- Qualifications and Calling Paper 10%
- Sermon Analysis 10%
- Final Exam 15%
- In-Class Speaking Assignment 10%
- Class Participation 10%

Class Schedule (subject to change/adjustment)

August 20	Class Introduction Preparing the Man: Qualifications
August 27	Preparing the Man: Call to Ministry and Personal Life of the Leader Assignments Due: - Read <i>Called to the Ministry</i> , - Personal evaluation of your qualifications and calling - Sermon Analysis 1 - Choose text from Ephesians
September 3	Preparing the Text: General Principles, Text selection Assignments Due: - Read <i>What's a Preacher to Do?</i> - Sermon Analysis 2
September 10	Preparing the text: context, exegesis, learning from others Assignments Due: - Read Robinson, Chapters 1–4 - Sermon Analysis 3
September 17	Preparing the Sermon: Determining purpose and creating a bare bones outline Assignments Due: - Read <i>Preaching with Purpose</i> - Sermon Analysis 4 - Study notes

September 24	Purpose statements in class Assignments Due: - Purpose Statement - Read Robinson, Chapters 5–7
October 1	Bare bones outlines in class Assignments Due: - Bare Bones Outline
October 8	No class: Fall break
October 15	Preparing the Sermon: transitions, illustrations, and application Assignments Due: - Read Robinson, Chapters 8–10
October 22	Delivery Assignment Due: - Read <i>Simplicity in Preaching</i> ,
October 29	Catch-up
November 5	In-class presentations Assignment Due: - Read <i>Preaching and Preachers</i>
November 12	In-class presentations Assignment Due: - Turn in your complete sermon outline.
November 19	In-class presentations Assignment Due: - Turn in your sermon manuscript
December 1	Reading report due
December 3–8	Final exams

Here is a link to my sermon outlines from 30 years of preaching. The summary outlines are in the folder “0 handouts”

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fkfglybvdhejs/AAAfYcqyYQbRQ5etTwy_0njaa?dl=0

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: COMM 1 (PT5100)
 Professor: Jim Newheiser
 Campus: Charlotte
 Date: Fall 2020

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes the ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Student must integrate hermeneutics, biblical exposition, theological themes, historical information, cultural familiarity, and verbal skills in communicating the message of Scripture .
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Student must understand the original meaning of Scripture through the use of the original language and be able to apply it in preaching the text.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Texts have theological messages that must be communicated to God's people.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Preaching itself is a sanctifying process that should remind the student of complete dependence on God.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	This is one of the goals of preaching and so should be a desire of the preacher.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Minimal	Emphasizes a winsome approach to preaching, including the presentation of the truth of the gospel and the word of God to those who may not agree.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Application of the preached word is a way of shepherding the flock and engaging the church with the world.